THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) 15 cases of AIDS have been reported in India as far as per details as under:—

Indian Nationals	9
Non-resident Indian from U.S.A.	1
Foreigners	5

(c) Potential AIDS carriers entering India from outside are foreigners, Indians returning from abroad particularly after visiting those countries where AIDS is prevalent. They are considered to be the high risk group for AIDS. Government of India has taken several steps for screening these potential carriers for AIDS and prevent further spread of disease. The following steps are being taken by the Government:—

1. A Cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health Services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the Country.

2. 35 Surveillance centres have been established in the country to screen high risk groups.

3. All these centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.

4. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.

5. All the State Health authorities| hospitals|STD clinics have been alerted to be vigilant.

6. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

7. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

8. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

9. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

10. *Foreigners:*

(i) Any new foreign students being admitted in any of the Indian Institutions are required to undergo AIDS test. Anybody found positive is repatriated back to his country.

(ii) It has been decided to screen for AIDS, the foreigners intending to stay for more than one year in India. Members of the diplomatic mission and foreign journalists will however be exempted from the AIDS test at this stage. Anybody found positive is to be repatriated back to his country.

Death due to AIDS

461. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in 'The Tribune' of the 27th October, 1987 under the caption 'Women AIDS patient dies' wherein it has been stated that a husband and wife have both died of AIDS during the span of two or three months;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the matter, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) (a) Yes, Government has seen the news item.

(b) Yes. The patient belongs to Jalandhar and was 35 years old wife of late Dilbagh Singh who also died of AIDS. Shri Dilbagh Singh contracted AIDS in Africa. He was reported to be hightly promiscuous and had sexual contacts in Africa.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government:—

1. A Cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health Services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the country.

2. 35 Surveillance centres have been established in the country to screen high risk groups.

3. All these centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.

4. Restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.

5. All the State Health authorities/hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to be vigilant.

6. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

7. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use presterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

8. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

9. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmision and prevention.

10. *Foreigners*:

I. Any new foreign students being admitted in any of the Indian Institutions are required to undergo AIDS test. Anybody found positive is repartriated back to his country.

II. It has been decided to screen for AIDS the foreigners intending to stay for more than one year in India. Members of the diplomatic mission and foreign journalists will however be exempted from the AIDS test at this stage. Anybody found positive is to be repatriated back to his country.

Construction of foot-over-bridge at Allahabad Railway Station

462. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABIDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3724 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the construction work of a new foot-over-bridge on platform No. 8 and 9 at Allahabad railway station has since been commenced; if so, the details of the progress made so far;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when the work of foot-over-bridge at Allahabad Junction will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Tenders for constructing a new foot-over-bridge connecting all the platforms and city side to the civil line side across the entire station yard have been invited and work will start soon after finalisation of the tenders.

(c) The work is likely to be completed in 1988.